

(b) According to the latest provisional figures available from DGCI&S, India's exports and imports registered a growth of 20.4% and 8.9% respectively in US Dollar terms during April—December, 2001 over the corresponding period last year.

(c) Export Promotion is a continuous process and the Government has taken various export promotion measures which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralization, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Export-Import Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sector and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to give a boost to our exports.

Impact of dumping of Chinese consumer goods on Indian Industry

23. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is dumping low cost and low quality consumer goods like hosiery, batteries, toys etc. in the country;

(b) whether this is having a very adverse effect on Indian manufacturing units;

(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with Chinese Authorities to ensure protection to Indian manufacturers and traders; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Information has been received by the Government concerning unfair trade practices leading to imports of cheap consumer goods like Dry Batteries, Sports Shoes and Toys from China causing injury to the domestic industry. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties had initiated *suo-moto* investigations under Customs Tariff Act of 1975 as amended in 1995 against the import of Dry Batteries, Sports Shoes and Toys from China on 20.11.2000.

[22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Provisional duty has been recommended on Dry Batteries on 24.1.2001 and on Sports Shoes on 25.1.2001. So far as Toys is concerned, the case has been closed since there was no sufficient evidence of injury to justify the continuation of investigations. In the case of import of Hosiery from China, no specific information or fully documented petition has been received from the domestic industry indicating any dumping or injury to the domestic producers and therefore, no investigations have been initiated as on date.

Promotion of Hindi in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

24. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in the Ministry and its allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices for propagation of Hindi as official language and encouragement of Hindi Correspondences;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant and since when; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to fill up such posts urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Number of Posts of Hindi Translators-Hindi Officers' Assistants created/lying vacant in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and its allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices alongwith reasons and steps taken to fill up such posts are given as under:—